

Application No. 09/173,858

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Claims 1-16 and 61-72 are pending. Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1 1. (currently amended) An interface for transactions among nodes in a network  
2 including a plurality of nodes which execute processes involved in the transactions, the  
3 interface being stored in a computer readable medium, comprising:

4 a machine readable specification of an interface to transaction processes stored in  
5 memory accessible by at least one node in the network, including interpretation information  
6 providing a definition of an input document, and a definition of an output document, the  
7 definitions of the input and output documents comprising respective descriptions of sets of  
8 storage units and logical structures for the sets of storage units.

1 2. (original) The interface of claim 1, wherein the interpretation information  
2 includes data type specifications for at least one logical structure in the definitions of the input  
3 and output documents.

1 3. (original) The interface of claim 1, wherein the interpretation information  
2 includes at least one data structure mapping predefined sets of storage units for a particular  
3 logical structure in the definitions of the input and output documents, to respective entries in a  
4 list.

1 4. (original) The interface of claim 1, including a repository in memory accessible  
2 by at least one node in the network storing a library of logical structures, and interpretation  
3 information for logic structures.

1 5. (original) The interface of claim 1, wherein the machine readable specification  
2 includes a document compliant with a definition of an interface document including logical  
3 structures for storing an identifier of a particular transaction, and at least one of definitions and  
4 references to definitions of input and output documents for the particular transaction.